

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6240

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CY, GR, US

SUBJECT: GREEK NEWS MEDIA REACTION TO NEWSWEEK AND
EVANS/NOVAK ARTICLES

REF: ATHENS 8118

1. SUMMARY: ATHENS PRESS FEATURED PROMINENTLY OFFICIAL GOG DENIALS OF U.S. PRESS REPORTS ON ALLEGED GREEK/TURKISH AGREEMENT RE CYPRUS/ (ATHENS 8118) AND FRENCH RADIO COMMENTARY TO EFFECT THAT U.S. DISCLOSURE OF SUCH AGREEMENT WAS CALCULATED TO AFFECT POSITION OF PM CARAMANLIS IN ELECTIONS. TWO NEWSPAPERS WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION TO EVANS/NOVAK REPLAY CONTENTS OF ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS MEMORANDUM ALLEGEDLY GIVEN TO CONGRESS. END SUMMARY.

2. NATIONAL RADIO GAVE TOP PRECEDENCE TO GOG DENIAL STATEMENTS THROUGHOUT DAY NOVEMBER 12 AND ALL NEWSPAPERS CARRIED PROMINENTLY REPORTAGE ON DENIALS, HIGHLIGHTS OF NEWSWEEK AND EVANS-NOVAK COLUMN IDENTIFIED ONLY AS WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE, AND FRENCH RADIO BROADCAST WHICH
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SPECULATED THAT COINCIDENCE OF U.S. PRESS ARTICLES AND

GREEK NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC UNION PRESIDENT GAROUFALIAS' STATEMENT PREVIOUS DAY TO EFFECT THAT GREEK CAPITULATION ON CYPRUS WOULD BE ANNOUNCED AY AFTER ELECTIONS SUGGESTS POSSIBLE EFFORT TO REDUCE ELECTORAL STRENGTH OF PM CARAMANLIS. KATHIMERINI (PRO-CARAMANLIS, CONSERVATIVE) ADDED IN OPINION COLUMN THAT FOREIGN DIPLOMATS IN ATHENS QUESTIONED LIKELIHOOD OF GREEK-TURKISH RAPPROCHEMENT AND VIEWED BITSIOS/GUNES MEETING LAST MONTH IN NEW YORK AS RESTRICTED TO GENERALITIES. "OBSERVERS IN ATHENS DO NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT CERTAIN QUARTERS DELIBERATELY SPREAD REPORTS ABOUT SUCH RAPPROCHEMENT TO CREATE IMPRESSION THAT SUBSTANTIAL TALKS ARE UNDERWAY...TO CONVINCE AMERICAN CONGRESS TO GIVE AN EXTENSION FOR GRANTING ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY--THE DEADLINE BEING DECEMBER 10."

3. UNDER WASHINGTON DATELINE ATHENAIKI (CENTER/LEFT) REPORTED BRIEFLY THAT IAKOVOS MADE STATEMENT AFTER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER DESCRIBING PRESIDENT AS MAN OF GOOD INTENTIONS BUT WEAK IN REACHING DECISIONS. SAME STATEMENT QUOTED SECRETARY AS SAYING TO ARCHBISHOP "WE DO NOT WISH AT ALL TO SEE MR. PAPANDREOU GOVERNING GREECE BECAUSE THIS WOULD MEAN THE COUNTRY WOULD COME UNDER COMMUNIST POWER." ARTICLE CONTINUED THAT SECRETARY REPLIED TO IAKOVOS' QUESTION ON WHY U.S. HAD NOT SUGGESTED SOLUTION TO CYPRUS PROBLEM BY SAYING "CARAMANLIS AND MAVROS DO NOT WANT THE U.S. TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THIS MATTER PRIOR TO THE ELECTIONS, SO WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?"

4. PRO-CARAMANLIS VRADYNI REPORTED GOG DENIAL AND PARIS RADIO COMMENTARY. VRADYNI SPECULATED REPORTS OF AGREEMENT MAY BE DESIGNED TO CONVINCE U.S. CONGRESS THAT "SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS" TOWARD CYPRUS AGREEMENT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. APOGEVMATINI (CENTER) REPORTED SAME ITEMS UNDER CAPTION "SUSPICIOUS REPORTS ABOUT AGREEMENT IN CYPRUS," WITH HEAVIER EMPHASIS ON FRENCH RADIO SPECULATION ON INTENT TO DECEIVE U.S. CONGRESS AND ATTEMPT TO DECREASE CARAMANLIS' STRENGTH IN ELECTIONS.

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5. TWO NEWSPAPERS--VRADYNI AND APOGEVMATINI--REPUBLISHED EXCERPTS FROM EVANS/NOVAK COLUMN WITHOUT INDICATING SOURCE. VRADYNI ON NOVEMBER 12 UNDER CAPTION "IAKOVOS DISCLOSES ROLE OF KISSINGER--PREVENTS FORD FROM TAKING POSITION." ARTICLE NOTED SECRETARY KISSINGER PREVENTED AT LAST MOMENT PRESIDENT FORD FROM MAKING CATEGORICAL STATEMENT THAT U.S. DISAPPROVES OF TURKISH POLICY AND TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS AND ON CONTRARY SUPPORTS JUST SOLUTION FOR

CYPRUS. ARTICLE ASSERTS THAT ARCHBISHOP NOVEMBER 11 SENT MEMORANDUM ON CONVERSATION TO HAFAC AND SFRC. VRADYNI NOTED IAKOVIS' EFFORTS TO PERSUADE U.S. LEADERS TO CONDEMN TURKISH ACTIONS FAILED BECAUSE AS IAKOVOS' MEMORANDUM INDICATED, SECRETARY SUCCESSFULLY CHANGED SUBJECT. REFERRING TO DATA AND INFORMATION FROM "AMERICAN SOURCES"

(POSSIBLY CIA) KISSINGER ALLEGEDLY SPOKE TO IAKOVOS ABOUT THE INCREASING INFLUENCE OF COMMUNISTS IN GREECE AND ELSEWHERE IN MEDITERRANEAN AND ADDED "THAT HE WISHES BY NO MEANS TO SEE A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT IN GREECE." APOGEVMATINI COVERED SAME MATERIAL, ADDING THAT ELIAS DEMITRACOPOULIS CONVEYED COPY OF MEMORANDUM TO ASSOCIATED PRESS AND THAT SAME MEMORANDUM WAS SENT TO PM CARAMANLIS. ITS VERSION ADDED THAT PRESIDENT FORD ASKED ARCHBISHOP TO INTERCEDE WITH CONGRESSMEN OF GREEK DESCENT NOT TO INSIST ON INTERRUPTING AMERICAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY. IAKOVOS REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT HE WOULD DO SO IF FORD MADE PUBLIC STATEMENT REQUESTING SETTLEMENT OF CYPRUS CRISIS AND ISSUE OF GREEK CYPRIOT REFUGEES. SAME ARTICLE NOTED FORD INDICATED SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT DANGER THAT COMMUNISTS WOULD TAKE POWER IN SOUTHERN EUROPE--YESTERDAY PORTUGAL, TODAY ITALY AND POSSIBLY TOMORROW SPAIN. "AT THIS POINT SECRETARY KISSINGER INTERVENED SAYING THAT EVEN TURKEY COULD TURN TOWARDS THE EAST WERE WE TO DISCONTINUE AID, IF WE CONSIDER THAT THE TURKISH PREMIER HAS ELFTIST IDEAS." ARTICLE CONCLUDED THAT SECRETARY CHARACTERIZED PAPANDREOU MOVEMENT AS STRONG AND ANNOYING. "WE DO NOT WITH AT ALL TO SEE PAPANDREOU RULE IN GREECE BECAUSE THIS COULD MEAN GREECE'S SUBMISSION TO COMMUNIST POWER."

6. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER NEW PROMPT AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FORTHRIGHT GOG DENIALS WILL SUCCEED IN BRINGING ABOUT QUICK DEMISE OF THIS MATTER.
KUBISCH

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